



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

VOL. XIV
No. 16

APR 20, 1992

GOV. WILSON'S JOB RATING CONTINUES TO DROP.

According to the latest Calif. Poll by Mervin Field, Gov. Pete Wilson's job performance rating is now at the LOWEST point since he took office. The poll of 1,226 CA voters (Mar. 18-21) shows just 22% of those surveyed as saying Wilson is doing an excellent or good job. 36% rate him as fair and another 36% rate his job performance as poor or very poor. No opinion was 19%. This data confirms what CALPEEK has learned from other sources. One GOP consultant who has been polling for congressional and legislative clients told CALPEEK that among Republicans, Wilson's approval rating is only 50-55%. Wilson's negatives among GOP voters runs across the board, from hardliners to moderates. In other words, he's in SERIOUS TROUBLE with his own GOP base...

CAMPAIGN '92: REPUBLICAN PRIMARY BATTLES TURNING MORE NEGATIVE WITH 6 WEEKS TO GO.

Editor's note: Here is another update on some key GOP and Demo primary races. Yes, the campaigning is getting nasty, especially among GOP candidates. Here is CALPEEK's report & analysis...

- 3rd A.D. - While Demo frontrunner Lon Hatamiya sits on the sidelines wearing a huge smile, Republicans in this GOP leaning district are witnessing some nasty mudslinging aimed at GOP frontrunner Bernie Richter of Chico. The mudslinging is coming from supporters of Plumas Co. Sup. Bill Coates, Richter's main rival. Coates was recently blasted with a sharply worded editorial in the Chico Enterprise-Record. "Coates has been caught in a lie involving fellow candidate and Chico businessman Bernie Richter and, instead of owing up and admitting the mistake, persists in claiming innocence," the editorial said in part. According to the editorial, Coates supporters have been telling voters Richter sold pornography - a charge not supported by the evidence. BOT-

TOMLINE: Bernie Richter remains the solid frontrunner in the GOP primary...

- 11th C.D. - Another example of negative campaigning is taking place in the GOP primary in this San Joaquin/Sacto Co. C.D. Of the 6 GOPers, 3 are serious candidates. They are Sacto Co. Sup. Sandy Smoley, Tracy Councilman Richard Pombo and Lodi Councilman Jack Sieglock. Smoley has hired McNally-Temple; Pombo has Wayne Johnson; and Sieglock has hired Steve Presson. Sieglock and Pombo are both VERY conservative, while Smoley is a Wilson, PRO-Choice moderate...

...Both Pombo and Sieglock are rehashing Smoley's \$13,500 FPPC fine for past reporting violations, but it is Pombo who has given Smoley sleepless nights. He has accused her of favoring what he calls "radical gay rights legislation & causes." She denies it, but Pombo cites some quotes in a 1986 story from a gay publication in which Smoley says she would have voted for AB 1 (the forerunner to AB 101) had she been in the legislature. Pombo also hit Smoley for being on a dinner committee back in 1989 that honored U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), who is openly gay. When Frank was told of Pombo's attack, he called the Tracy councilman, "A low rent Pat Buchanan." Smoley is the one to watch in this race, but remember only 18% of this C.D. is in Sacto Co. and hardliners really hate her. On the other hand, the hardliners may split the vote...

...The Demo frontrunner is Patti Garamendi, wife of the Demo insurance commissioner. She's making her 3rd run for office in the last 18 months. Two previous losses have hurt, but her consultant Paul Kinney says Garamendi is STRONGER than people think. Fairbank-Maullin are doing the polling. The registration is 52.5% Demo to 38.7%

{Continued Next Page}

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK (ISSN 0195-6175) IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (310) 659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. \$97.00/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHT BY CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SEC. OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

GOP, meaning this C.D. leans Demo. Garamendi's best known rival is San Joaquin Co. Sup. George Barber, but at this point he's not mounting much of a campaign...

- 45th C.D. - It's not so much mud as solid hits that are being thrown in the direction of U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher(R), who moved into this Orange Co. C.D. to seek reelection. The candidate doing the bashing is Costa Mesa Councilman Peter Buffa, a one-time Demo who now sports conservative GOP credentials. He has accused Rohrabacher of "hypocrisy" for voting for a campaign reform package AFTER he reportedly used his congressional frank to mail \$115,000 worth of letters to voters outside his current 42nd C.D. Buffa has also hit Rohrabacher for writing overdrafts at the House bank. Heavy stuff, but Buffa has problems too. He helped to establish Orange Co.'s Performing Arts Center -- and CALPEEK readers know that Dana doesn't like spending taxpayer dollars for art, obscene or otherwise. CALPEEK is waiting to see if Rohrabacher bounced any more than 8 checks before passing judgment here. Our best guess is that Buffa is a solid contender, but Huntington Beach Councilman Peter Green probably hurts Buffa --- and that helps Rohrabacher...

- 20th S.D. SPECIAL - With the primary in the history books, Senate Pres. David Roberti(D) and his campaign team have embarked on a strategy to "smoke out" GOP candidate Carol Rowen on the ISSUES. In the primary, Rowen literally DUCKED every issue except CHOICE. A recent L.A. Daily News column by Debra Saunders ripped Rowen in two for failing to discuss key issues...

...And it is the lack of any clear position which is causing Californians Against Corruption, a PRO-GUN group independent of the NRA and Gun Owners of CA, to have some second thoughts about Rowen. The endorsement of CAC is up in the air, according to Manny Fernandez, who chairs this group which was founded during the battle over the Roberti-Roos Assault Weapons bill. Fernandez told CALPEEK that Rowen admitted she was NOT well versed about guns or gun law, but said she would be willing to listen. CAC also will talk to Libertarian candidate John Vernon before endorsing in this special...

- 36th C.D. - This West L.A./So. Bay district should end up in GOP hands, given

the 46.15% registration (vs. 41.89% Demo). But attorney Jane Harman, who is the unquestioned Demo frontrunner, hopes lightning will strike in the form of L.A. Councilwoman Joan Flores(R). Harman's hope is that GOP PRO-Choice co-favorite Maureen Reagan will come in second to PRO-Lifer Flores --- thus setting up a battle with CHOICE as the key November issue. Harman is betting that PRO-Choice GOP women will cross over for her. But Flores campaign consultant Allan Hoffenblum doesn't buy that. He contends that GOP women are NOT single issue voters. FYI: A March 25-28 poll by Arnie Steinberg for Flores shows Flores with 21%, Reagan with 18.3%, Bill Beverly with 13.3%, John Barbieri with 2.3%, Bill Fahey with 2.0%, UNDECIDED with 38.5% and 4.6% split between the remaining GOP candidates. BOTTOMLINE: the GOP primary is still a toss up...

- 51st C.D. - The anticipated "duel to the death" between GOP incumbent U.S. Reps. Randy "Duke" Cunningham and Bill Lowery, both of San Diego and both running for the same seat, WON'T take place. Lowery pulled the plug on his primary campaign. REASON: the House Ethics Cmt. has disclosed that Lowery overdrafted his House Bank account 300 times. BOTTOMLINE: with Lowery out, the Duke has a lock on a 2nd term. More on San Diego primaries next week...

LOCAL ELECTIONS: 60 SO. CALIF. CITIES HOLD APRIL 14 ELECTIONS. NO MAJOR TRENDS SEEN.. Editor's note: More than 60 local cities in So. Calif., mostly in L.A. and Orange counties, held local elections Apr. 14. No key trends were spotted. If INCUMBENTS had problems, in most cases they were bounced. Here is CALPEEK's brief analysis...

...The average TURNOUT (guesstimate) was about 15-20% in most small cities. That's miserable to say the least. Where there were hot contests, such as in Malibu, where a ton of money was spent to oust incumbents Missy Zeitsoff and Mike Caggiano, the turnout was higher. Malibu's turnout was 55%...

...In Baldwin Park, voters overwhelmingly rejected Measure A to permit the city to license a POKER CLUB. The NO vote was 74%. Going down to defeat with the card club was the incumbent Mayor Bette Lowes, and the card club's key proponent, Councilman Herschel Keyser...

...In Long Beach, CA's 5th largest city, incumbent Councilman Wallace Edgerton was bounced by Alan Lowenthal - a nice win for Skelton-Grover & Assoc. Incumbents Tom Clark and Clarence Smith now face runoffs with Jerry Westlund and Doris Topsy-Elvord, respectively. The economy and no Disney deal were issues in these races...

...A poorly worded slow-growth measure was trounced in Santa Clarita. Nearly 58% said NO to Measure A - and another win for The Wessell Co. In Rancho Palos Verdes, voters narrowly REJECTED a tax hike to bail the city out of its deficit. The raw vote was YES 3,258, while 3,648 voted NO...

...On the affluent Westside of L.A., incumbent Beverly Hills councilmembers Vicki Reynolds and Allan Alexander were reelected, but Bernie Hecht got bounced by attorney Tom Levyn - a nice win for consultant Jill Barad. In neighboring West Hollywood, both Mayor Paul Koretz and Councilwoman Abbe Land were reelected. And in Culver City, incumbents Steven Gourley and James Boulgarides were returned for another term in office. Stay tuned...

S.F. POLITICS: THE GAME OF MUSICAL CHAIRS.

You can't tell the political players these days in San Francisco without an up-to-date score card supplied by the new mayor, Frank Jordan. While most CALPEEK insiders did hear about Jordan's appointment of the very liberal Richard Hongisto (former sheriff, former supe and recent/former county assessor) as the city's new POLICE CHIEF, some CALPEEK readers may not know that Mayor Jordan THEN appointed Board of Supes President Doris Ward to fill out Hongisto's remaining time as COUNTY ASSESSOR...

...That appointment created two vacancies on the board: the board presidency and an empty supervisory spot. With budgetary problems, Jordan was hoping that one of his board allies, such as Bill Maher, might win the presidency, but it was not to be. The new president is Kevin Shelley...

In terms of filling the empty board job, Jordan surprised lots of folks with the appointment of Annemarie Conroy. She is a 28-year-old attorney (the youngest supe ever named) and get this, she's a REPUBLICAN. Not only that, she's the vice chair

of the S.F. County GOP Central Committee. She's a PRO-Choice/lib GOPER. With less than 10 days in office, these appointees are drawing lots of FIRE from the news media. It's keeping Jordan's new press secretary, Bob Forsyth, and deputy press secretary Stacy Walters, very busy with fire and damage control...

...The story gets even better, because in his new role as president of the board, Shelley REARRANGED committee assignments. Guess who got shafted? If you said Angela Alioto, you win a prize. Not only did she fail to win a spot on the key Finance Cmt., but Shelley took her off the City Services Cmt., which she chaired. Sources say she's NOT a happy camper...

...FYI: If the SAN JOSE plan to finance the construction of a new baseball stadium to lure the Giants south fails to win this June, some CALPEEK sources suggest that Mayor Jordan may dust off the China Basin stadium plan to keep the team in S.F...

CAMPBELL'S PRO-CHOICE/JOBS SENATE ADS AIR.

U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell (R-Palo Alto) has begun to air 2 TV spots in his quest to gain greater name ID in Calif. The spots, produced by consultant Ray McNally, are airing in all parts of the State except in the Bay Area, where Campbell is well known. The initial 2-week buy will cost the campaign about \$500,000. The voice over on both ads state that Campbell is PRO-Choice, a somewhat risky strategy, but Campbell consultant Ron Smith says his client felt it was important to let Republicans know where he stood on this hot issue. Within a matter of 3-hours after the Campbell TV spots were previewed by the news media, Campbell rival Bruce Herschensohn's campaign was nit-picking away with a 13-page FAX ATTACK. There wasn't much that BH's campaign liked about either spot. Compared to John Seymour's 2 spots, where it is hard to tell what Seymour is running for, Campbell's ads are masterful. Whether GOP voters will believe them is another story. When Campbell says "he's one of the most CONSERVATIVE members of congress on spending," the word conservative is in big letters on the screen. If Campbell's a conservative, then pigs can fly. Otherwise, the ads are great...

U.S. SENATE UPDATE: MONEY, MONEY, MONEY.

Editor's note: Campaign contribution reports have been released by all the major U.S. Senate candidates running for the two seats in CA. Here is CALPEEK's listing. In the first column after the name is the Total Amount Contributed to date. The second column has the all-important CASH-ON-HAND.

6-Year Seat

Candidate	Total Contri.	C-O-H
Boxer(D)	\$4,006,546	\$1.2 Mil.
Levine(D)	\$5,381,634	\$1.3 Mil.
McCarthy(D)	\$2,111,690	\$1.0 Mil.
Bono(R)	\$ 257,795	\$ 41,954
Campbell(R)	\$3,259,100	\$2.1 Mil.
Hersch'sohn(R)	\$1,811,917	\$430,930

2-Year Seat

Alioto(D)	\$ 28,270	\$ 3,518
Davis(D)	\$2,176,137	\$1.7 Mil.
Feinstein(D)	\$3,037,092	\$1.2 Mil.
Allen(R)	\$ 129,376	\$ 5,528
Dannemeyer(R)	\$2,550,878	\$ 29,148
Seymour(R)	\$2,763,874	\$464,285

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: TERM LIMIT BACKERS TURN IN PETITIONS; RIGHT TO DIE QUALIFIES.

Editor's note: Here is an update on Calif. ballot measure activity:

- CALPEEK sources confirm that supporters of a statute initiative for TERM LIMITS on U.S. Senators and House members will be turned in Apr. 17. In addition to sponsors Anita Anderson and People's Advocate, the other major sponsor is former L.A. County Sup. Pete Schabarum. Schabarum had 3 term limit initiatives of his own, but was far behind in collecting signatures, so he decided to throw in with Anderson. And it was Schabarum's \$180,000 which helped pay for the final push to qualify this plan...

- "TERMINAL ILLNESS. ASSISTANCE IN DYING" (aka The Death With Dignity Act) has qualified for the November 1992 ballot. If approved, the measure would permit a mentally competent adult who has been diagnosed as terminally ill to write a revocable directive authorizing his or her doctor to terminate life in a "painless, humane and dignified manner." This is going to be a VERY hot issue. The sponsors are Robert

Risley of Pasadena (213)485-8521 and Allen Briney of Whittier...

- "FINES AND BAIL" is the official title of an initiative statute which has been given the ok to collect signatures. The sponsor is Norman J. Bedford of Healdsburg (707)433-7841. The measure seeks to stop the imposition of a fine or forfeiture of bail without a determination of the ability of the person to pay. Bedford's deadline for submitting 384,974 signatures is Aug. 27...

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR DEATH PENALTY STRONG.

With convicted killer Robert Alton Harris about ready to sniff cyanide on Apr. 21 in CA's gas chamber, pollster Mervin Field's recent CA Poll shows that SUPPORT for the State's death penalty is running at 80%, down from 82% in 1989. Opposition to the death penalty has held firm at 14% since 1986...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- Darry Sragow has resigned as chief deputy to Bd. of Equal. Chair Brad Sherman to manage a gubernatorial campaign in Washington State. Paul Koretz, West Hollywood mayor and long time Sherman friend, will be temporary chief deputy...

- L.A. Councilwoman Rita Walters hires Charles Dickerson as chief deputy, replacing Willie Washington, who becomes chief field deputy in Walter's district office. Also hired is Delpha Hacker Flad as an AA-Transportation deputy and Howard Gantman as Walter's new press deputy...

- Consultant Tom Hall forms The Maverick Group, 933 Ocean Ave., #2, Santa Monica, CA 90403 (310)393-7775. Consultant Andy Volz is an associate with TMG. TMG signs 19th S.D. Demo candidate Hank Starr...

- Consultant Kerman Maddox is working with Winner-Bragg in L.A...

- James R. Tucker, former chief deputy Controller, and Jeanne Pritchard, former chief of technical asst. division of the FPPC, have joined the Sacto office of Remcho, Johansen & Purcell...